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REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 10, 16 and 20 have been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled. New claim 21 has been added. Claims 1-8 and 10-21 remain pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-10, 12, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krauss (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,756) in view of Yokota (U.S. Patent No. 5,878,467). Claims 3, 5, 11 and 15 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Krauss in view of Yokota, and further in view of Hicks et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,711,785). Claims 6, 13, 14 and 17-19 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Krauss in view of Yokota and Hicks et al, and further in view of Murai (U.S. Patent No. 5,671,508) and Brosofsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,539,588). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 1, 8 and 16 have been amended to more clearly recite what it is the applicants regards as their invention.

In regards to claim 1, it has been amended to recite that the pin pockets extend inwardly into an inner wall surface of each end, whereas the pins extend outwardly of the inner wall surface, such that a plurality of pin tips of the plurality of pins on one end of the opposing ends operatively mate with the plurality of pin pockets of the other end of the opposing ends when the opposing ends are brought together to trap and secure the first and second ends of the lanyard cord therebetween. Krauss simply does not provide such a plurality of pin pockets and pins (see, e.g., FIG. 6 of Krauss), and Yokota fails to solve this deficiency of Krauss.

In regards to claim 8, it has been amended to recite the same structural arrangement of the pins and pockets as set forth in amended claim 1, and to further recite

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that each of the pin tips of the pins extends through the first and second ends of a cord, and each of the pin tips operatively mate with the pin pockets to secure the first and second ends onto the clip. Krauss does not teach that the pin tips extend through the cord (see, e.g., FIG. 6 of Krauss), and Yokota fails to solve this deficiency of Krauss.
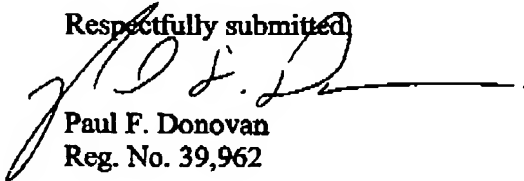
In regards to claim 16, not only has it been amended to recite the same structural arrangement of the pins and pockets as set forth in amended claim 1, it has also been amended to further recite that when the opposing ends are brought together, and when one or both of the first and second ends of the cord are pulled or placed under an applied tension, each pin will have a tendency to bend about its respective base until the pin is prevented from bending any further on account of operative interaction with an inner wall of the associated pocket, thereby preventing the ends of the cord from being pulled out of the web under an applied tension. The pins of Krauss on one half of the clip do not extend beyond the pins on the other half of the clip when the clip is closed (see, e.g., FIG. 6 of Krauss), and Yokota fails to solve this deficiency of Krauss.

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 8 and 16 are patentable over Krauss in view of Yokota, as well as in view of any other art of record. Claims 2-7, 10-15, 17-20 and new claim 21 depend from one of claims 1, 8 and 16, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and dealt with expeditiously by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

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